

February 27, 1975

SENATOR SAVAGE: I'm sorry. The bill is advanced. The next bill is 280, constitutional amendment.

SENATOR LUEDTKE: Mr. President, this is a Judiciary Committee bill which was heard before Senator Syas' Constitutional Revision Committee. We are currently attempting to work out some amendments, with the permission of Senator Syas, I've already discussed this with him, we'd like to have this bracketed until we get the amendments worked out. Is that correct Senator Syas? We ask unanimous consent to bracket it.

SENATOR SAVAGE: Unanimous consent has been requested to bracket LB 280. Do I see any objections? If not, it is so ordered. We'll go to the next bill which is LB 427.

CLERK: Read title.

SENATOR SAVAGE: Senator Clark.

SENATOR CLARK: Mr. President, members of the body, I move that 427 be advanced to E & R initial.

SENATOR SAVAGE: Is there any further discussion?

SENATOR CLARK: This is a telecommunications bill that we've worked on for about 5 years. What it really does is consolidate all of the systems under one head, which will be the Director of Communications. At the present time it must go through the General Services. It does not take the director away from DAS. It leaves a director there. The only controversy, that I know of in the bill, is where you have a broadening language on page 14 of the bill. What this does is to allow the telephone companies in the State of Nebraska to continue to operate as telephone companies. It disallows the State of Nebraska to come in and cream off the top of high volume areas and letting the telephone companies take the low volume areas. The reason this happens, or would happen, is that it would be economically feasible for the state to take a short area from here to Grand Island, or from here to Omaha, and build a line at that time. Well they'd be taking our money to build the line in the first place. In the second place, any loss of revenue would have to come back into the rate payers. It would be a double taxation, double burden onto the taxpayer. That's the only thing I know of. I'd be very happy to answer any questions about it. It's a highly technical bill. I move the advancement.

SENATOR SAVAGE: Senator Nichol.

SENATOR NICHOL: Mr. Chairman, members of the Legislature, may I ask the Senator a question please.

SENATOR SAVAGE: Senator Clark.

SENATOR CLARK: Yes.

SENATOR NICHOL: I don't think . . . my question has to do with this bill. I think my question has to do with 426, but just in case it has anything to do with 427, does this have anything with the state getting into the telephone company business?